(c) whether it is a fact that the Director of the AIIMS had issued four memos for the meeting of the Institute of his own without taking the consent of the President; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take against the Director of AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d): This happened because a view was earlier taken that the then Minister had ceased to hold the office of the President of the Institute after demission of the office of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. However, the matter was re-examined later and it was decided that he continued to be the President of the Institute.

Irregularities in supply of Medicines under NMEP

6395. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI V.N. GADGIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of medicines under the National Malaria Eradicaiton Programme has been highly irregular to several States since 1st April, 1993 and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government had received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to the effect that the State Government be permitted to make all the purchases of medicine and that Government of India should bear 50% of the expenses for medicines and pesticides and if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During 1993, the Govt. of Maharashtra requested for reimbursement of cost of 225.29 lakh Chloroquine tablets. However, as the Central assistance under National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) since 1993-94 is in the form of materials only, the expenditure incurred by the State Govt. was to be adjusted in 50% Share of the State.

Setting up of branch of NICD in Bombay

6396. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI V.N. GADGIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no branch of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi in the State of Maharashtra and as a result thereof the blood samples of patients suspected to be suffering from communicable diseases are sent to Bangalore for test which involves a lot of delay; and

(b) whether government propose to set up a branch of this Institute in Bombay and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Blood samples from Maharashtra were sent to the Bangalore Branch of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD). However, non-availability of adequate quantity of diagnostic reagents and large number of samples required to be examined within a short period of time, contributed to some delay in testing of samples.

(b) There is no such proposal. However, financial assistance has been provided to some medical colleges/ hospitals in the State for upgradation of laboratory facilities.